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U.S.DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Opportunity for the public to make written comments and/or oral comments concerning the NACIQI's report on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).

**ADDRESS:** U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, 1990 K Street, NW, Room 8060, Washington, D.C. 20006.

**SUMMARY:** This notice invites the public to submit written comments and requests to make oral comments concerning the NACIQI's draft report on the reauthorization of the HEA.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** The NACIQI meeting will be held on December 14-16, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, Washington Ballroom, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

During the afternoons of December 15 and December 16, 2011, the Committee will consider its report on the reauthorization of the HEA.

**AGENDA FOR THE PORTION OF THE MEETING CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPORT ON THE HEA:** The portion of the meeting concerning the Committee's draft report will consist of public comments and deliberations concerning the draft report to the Secretary of U.S. Department of Education on the reauthorization of the HEA. The report may be accessed at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/naciqi-dir/hea-recommendations.doc> and <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/naciqi-dir/hea-recommendations.pdf>.

**SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPORT ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEA:** Submitters should provide written comments as a Microsoft Word document that is attached to an electronic mail message (e-mail) or provide comments in the body of an e-mail message. E-mail messages must be received no later than November 25, 2011, to [aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov](mailto:aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov) with the subject line "Written Comments regarding the draft report on the reauthorization of the HEA: Option Letter and/or Number."

The Department intends to post the submissions on the NACIQI website. To help ensure accessibility to all interested parties, we are requesting that all submissions comply with the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, or be submitted in an electronic format that can be made accessible, such as Microsoft Word. However, we will accept comments in any electronic or written form provided, but comments submitted in other forms, which are inaccessible, will not be posted online. Instead, we will index the inaccessible comments received

and make them available upon request. Also, if copyrighted materials are submitted, written permission to post the materials on the U.S. Department of Education's NACIQI website must accompany the copyrighted materials.

Only materials submitted by the deadline to the e-mail address listed in this notice, and in accordance with these instructions, become part of the official record concerning the reauthorization of the HEA and are considered by the Department and the NACIQI in their deliberations. Do not send material directly to NACIQI members or to staff.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUESTS TO MAKE ORAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT REPORT ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE**

**HEA:** There are two methods the public may use to make an oral comment concerning the Committee's report on the reauthorization of the HEA.

Method One: Submit a request by e-mail in advance of the meeting to make an oral comment. All individuals or groups submitting an advance request in accordance with this notice will be afforded an opportunity to speak for up to a maximum of three minutes each. Each request must be received no later than November 18, 2011, and must be sent to [aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov](mailto:aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov) with the subject line "Oral Comment Request regarding the draft report on the reauthorization of the HEA: Option Letter and/or Number." Your request (no more than one page maximum) must include:

1. The name, title, affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and Web site (if any) of the person/group requesting to speak, and

2. A brief summary of the principal points to be made during the oral presentation.

Do not send material directly to the NACIQI members or staff.

Method Two: Register on December 16, 2011, for an opportunity to comment on the draft report. The requester should provide his or her name, title, affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and Web site (if any). The requester should provide the "Option Letter and/or Number" for the item the requester wishes to address. Up to 30 minutes total will be divided among oral commenters who register (in addition to those commenters who signed up in advance). Individuals or groups that register to make oral comments on December 16, 2011, will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis for each issue reviewed. If selected, each commenter may speak from three to five minutes, depending on the number of individuals or groups who registered for an oral presentation opportunity for each issue. The Committee may engage the commenter in discussion afterwards. If a person or group requests to make comments in advance, they cannot sign-up to make comments at the meeting.

Members of the public will be eligible to make oral comments concerning the reauthorization of the HEA only in accordance with these instructions. The oral comments made will become part of the official record and will be considered by the Department and the NACIQI in their deliberations.

**WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW ON DECEMBER 14 and 15, 2011:** Two separate Federal Register notices were previously published on August 17, 2011 (76 FR 51014) and [publication date to be determined for the NACIQI Oral Comments notice] that contained the meeting notice and instructions for providing written or oral comments concerning the agencies and the Federal institution scheduled for review.

**ACCESS TO RECORDS OF THE MEETING:** The Department will record the meeting and post the official report of the meeting on the NACIQI Website shortly after the meeting. Pursuant to the FACA, the public may also inspect the materials at 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC, by e-mailing [aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov](mailto:aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov), or by calling (202) 219-7067 to schedule an appointment.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the December 14-16, 2011 meeting (i.e., interpreter services, assistive listening devices, and/or materials in alternative format) should contact department staff by telephone: 202 219-7011; or, e-mail: [aslrecordsmanagement@ed.gov](mailto:aslrecordsmanagement@ed.gov), no later than November 21, 2011. We will attempt to meet requests after this date but cannot guarantee the availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melissa Lewis, Executive Director, NACIQI, U.S. Department of Education, Room 8060, 1990 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7009; e-mail: [Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov](mailto:Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339,

between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**NACIQI'S STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS:** The NACIQI is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. The NACIQI advises the Secretary of Education about:

- The establishment and enforcement of the Criteria for Recognition of accrediting agencies or associations under Subpart 2, Part H, Title IV, HEA, as amended.
- The recognition of specific accrediting agencies or associations, or a specific State approval agency.
- The preparation and publication of the list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies and associations.
- The eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, HEA.
- The relationship between: (1) accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions, and (2) State licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions.
- Any other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility that the Secretary may prescribe.

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Eduardo M. Ochoa,  
Assistant Secretary  
for Postsecondary Education.

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